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Federal Building 55 Pleasant Street, Room 352 Concord. New Hampshire 03301 603/225-1552

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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono

United States Attorney

Alfred Rubega

Assistant U.S. Attorney

(603) 225-1552

MASSACHUSETTS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that **ROBERTA CURRAN**, of 599 S. Bridge Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Concord to 4 months in federal prison following her conviction on an eight-count indictment for identity theft crimes. Curran pleaded guilty to the charges on June 29, 2004.

Curran, 41, a former resident of Derry, NH, pleaded guilty to an indictment that charged her with using at least five different false names and false Social Security numbers to obtain 16 fraudulent New Hampshire Drivers' licenses and Non-Driver ID cards between October 1998 and February 2003. Curran then used the false identification documents to facilitate the commission of bank fraud.

Curran was originally known as Martin Curran, and committed most of the offenses charged under that name. Curran admitted, as part of the plea, to having used the name Roberta Curran fraudulently, and fraudulently obtaining a Social Security number in that name before legally adopting the name.

The apprehension and prosecution of Curran were the result of an investgation by the Identity Theft and Fraud Working Group organized in the U.S. Attorney's office which brings together both federal and state law enforcement agencies to combat identity theft and fraud. An intensive and coordinated investigation by agents of the Derry Police Department, the N.H. Department of Safety's Highway Patrol and Enforcement Bureau, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service resulted in Curran's apprehension.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono commended all agencies involved stating, "The vigilance of the Derry Police Department, which first began the investigation of the fraud, followed by the joint efforts and outstanding cooperation among numerous federal and state agencies stands as a fine example of law enforcement work and professionalism at its best. This case should serve as a warning to anyone contemplating identity fraud that they will be detected, apprehended, and prosecuted."

Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega prosecuted this case.